

Notable

Missile Madness
by Herbert Scoville
& Robert Osborn

(Houghton Mifflin; \$4.95)

Arms Beyond Doubt
by Ralph E. Lapp

(Cowles; \$5.95)

Fouquier Tinville in the French Revolution rang his little bell to silence witnesses for the defense. L. Mendel Rivers, whose motto is "Rivers delivers" and who is chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, has a series of alarm clocks perched at his seat to silence members of his committee who get too curious about defense spending. So reports Senator Proxmire in his study of the military-industrial complex (see review in this issue). Dr. Lapp in his new book thinks technology is in the saddle riding mankind, weapons not men now make American policy. He is too kind. The roots of impending catastrophe are human fear and human greed, not machines.

Robert Osborn's satirical pencil stabs again and again at this simple point: Scoville's analysis of technology is sensible but already slightly outdated, which Lapp's is not.

It's worthwhile—and isn't difficult—to show up the idiocies of ABM, MIRV, FOBS and the rest, considered solely on their demerits as instruments of war. But in the final analysis it's men that count, not weapons. The arguments for not having MIRV have failed not because they are faulty but because from where the MIRV-makers sit, they are irrelevant. Dr. Lapp argues that Congress must acquire the expertise in order to be able to talk back to the experts; but who will stop our Fouquier Tinville drowning the voice of reason with alarm clocks, whilst generals and admirals retired on big pensions greedily grab for more, by testifying in favor of bigger and bigger bangs on behalf of their new paymasters, the defense contractors?

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

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